

DOCKET NO: 236706US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
SYLVIA MONSHEIMER, ET AL. : EXAMINER: J.E. COZART
SERIAL NO: 10/670,528 :
FILED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3726
FOR: PIPE CONNECTION :

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated September 20, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS

Claims 10-24, 24-27 and 31-41 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a laser-welded composite part in which a plastic pipe is connected to another plastic part, where the other plastic part has at least one nipple which is provided for the connection to the pipe. An important feature of the invention is that the nipple is provided on the outside with a profile. See the last line of Claims 10, 17, 24 and 31. Such a profile leads to a widening of the pipe when inserting the nipple into the pipe and a better connection.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Savitski et al. in view of Fischerkeller et al. is respectfully traversed.

Savitski et al. disclose the simultaneous production of lap and butt joints in order to join plastic materials. See the Abstract and column 1, lines 14-20. The components are fused together to simultaneously form the lap and butt joints by the heat produced by applying radiation to the components. See column 1, lines 18-20. As the Office recognizes, Savitski et al. fail to disclose a nipple which is provided on the other plastic pipe for the connection to the pipe.

Fischerkeller et al. disclose a fastening device for attaching a fuel line to a connecting piece. See the Abstract. The fastening device contains a connector (10) that is alleged by the Office to correspond to the nipple recited in the claims.

One would not look to Fischerkeller et al. to modify Savitski et al. to incorporate a nipple provided on the outside with a profile as claimed. Savitski et al. explicitly disclose a way to connect the component parts, so there is no need for a nipple as claimed. The reference discloses that radiating the components generates heat which fuses the components with the simultaneous production of the butt and lap joints. Therefore, a nipple is not

required. For that reason, one would not be motivated to modify the device described by Savitski et al. to include a nipple.

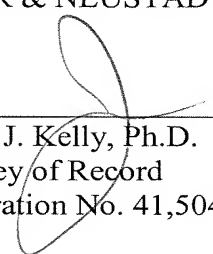
While Savitski et al. do not “explicitly exclude the possibility of adding supplemental retention features to either the pipe or other plastic pipe in combination with welding or heating” and the description in Fischerkeller et al. does not “destroy” the teachings in Savitski et al., the issue is whether those references in combination suggest the claimed invention. There is no motivation for a nipple provided on the outside with a profile because Savitski et al. already explicitly disclose a way to connect the component parts, without a nipple. So, while a nipple may not be excluded, it isn’t needed, either! Why would one use a nipple as claimed when the references already describe a way to join the parts together?

In view of the foregoing, the claimed composite part is not obvious over the combination of Savitski et al. and Fischerkeller et al. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kelly, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 41,504

Customer Number
22850
Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)